

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend paragraph [0028] of the printed publication of the present application in the following manner:

FIG. 13 is a side perspective view of a section of banded syringes with a control feature according to a first embodiment; and

Please amend paragraph [0029] of the printed publication of the present application in the following manner:

FIG. 14 is a diagrammatic plan view of an automated system for preparing or otherwise compounding a medication to be administered to a patient[[.]]

Please add the following paragraphs after the paragraph [0029] of the printed publication of the present application:

FIG. 15 is a side perspective view of a section of banded syringes with a control feature according to a second embodiment; and

FIG. 16 is a side perspective view of a section of banded syringes with a control feature according to a third embodiment.



flow are in alignment. In this instance, the sensor 914 is of a type that detects the presence of the laminar air flow against the sensor 914 itself and in one embodiment, the sensor is a pressure sensor. When the laminar air flow and the control feature 900 are in registration, the laminar air flow is permitted to flow cleanly through the aperture formed in the banded syringes 10 and make contact with the sensor. The sensor detects the presence of the laminar air flow and signals a controller (not shown) or the like of such detection. The controller is integrated into the system 100 such that upon receiving this signal, the controller then signals other components, such as the rotary apparatus 130, of the system 100 to advance the banded syringes 10 a prescribed distance. It should be understood that the controller can respond to the pressure of the air flow through the control feature 900 or to a logical waveform resulting from the timing of air signals relative to periods without air signals (e.g., due to indexing of the banded syringes 10).

Once the banded syringes 10 is advanced the prescribed distance, another of the apertures (control feature 900) is then axially aligned with the laminar air flow so long as the correct type of banded syringes 10 for the system 100 is in place, the syringe orientation (up or down) is proper, and also the alignment of the banded syringes 10 is proper. By integrating the detection mechanism 910 with the indexing components of the system 100, the distance between the control features 900 corresponds to the distance that the banded syringes 10 is advanced upon receiving the control signal from the detection mechanism 910. Thus, the banded syringes 10 is continuously advanced because each time the detection mechanism 910 is in recognition with the control feature 900, the banded syringes 10 is advanced a distance that corresponds to the next control feature 900 being within a detection zone, thereby resulting in the detection mechanism 910 detecting the next control feature 900 and signaling the system 100 to further advance the banded syringes 10.

It will be appreciated that the system 100 can thus easily be designed so that the banded syringes 10 is continuously fed into the system 100, thereby permitting the system 100 to run continuously. The control feature 900 ensures proper alignment of the banded syringes 10 and also ensures that the proper type of banded syringes 10 is being used as the system 100 is configured to stop advancing the banded syringes 10 if the detection mechanism 910 fails to read the control feature 900. For example, if the correct banded structure 10 is being used but the banded structure 10 becomes misaligned as it is being fed, the control feature 900 will not be in alignment



In yet another embodiment that is illustrated in Fig. 16, the control feature is a mark 960 that is formed within the prescribed interval 902 between spaced syringes and a detection mechanism 970 is used for detecting the mark 960. The mark 960 can be any number of types of marks, including a printed mark that is formed on the surface of banded syringes 10. As with the other embodiments, the detection mechanism 970 is used to detect the mark 960 and if a detection is not made within a prescribed time interval or during advancement of the banded structure 10 over a prescribed distance, the detection mechanism 970 signals a controller or the like to stop the advancement of the banded syringes 10.

It will also be appreciated that when the control feature is an aperture formed through the banded syringes 10 within the prescribed region, other types of detection mechanisms can be used rather than the pressure based detection mechanism discussed earlier. For example, the detection mechanism can be an ultrasonic system having an ultrasonic receiver and transducer. Ultrasonic waves are created one side of the banded syringes 10 and are emitted toward the banded syringes 10. When the control feature is in proper registration, the ultrasonic waves can pass through the aperture unimpeded and are detected on the other side of the banded syringes 10. When the detection mechanism is ultrasonically based, the system preferably includes an integrator and comparator so that ultrasonic waves that pass through the aperture can be differentiated from ultrasonic waves that reach the detector by means other than passing through the aperture (control feature).

Another type of detection mechanism that can be used with the banded syringes 10 is a thermal detection system. For example, the control feature 900 is still an aperture formed in the banded syringes 10; however, the detection mechanism is a thermal based system that includes a thermal source (e.g., heat lamp) and a thermal detector. The thermal source, such as a heat lamp, is disposed on one side of the banded syringes 10, while the thermal detector is disposed on the other side of the banded syringes 10. The thermal source and the thermal detector are positioned so that the aperture is in registration therewith at a point in time as the banded syringes 10 are advanced. The thermal detection mechanism is preferably coupled with an integrator and comparator. These two components permit the thermal detection mechanism to differentiate between heat that is detected across the aperture and heat that is detected through the banded structure 10 itself but

